

Finding Fall



Autumn and its colorful leaves move down from the high country, just as spring seems to start at low elevation and move up. Small alpine plants change color first, then the fall hues begin to appear in the mid-elevation forests. Next the black oaks just above the foothills chaparral turn yellow.

Fall colors show up throughout the parks, but they stand out in some places more than others. Mineral King Valley is known for its yellow aspens. Between the evergreens of the mixed-conifer forests, dogwood leaves take on a pink hue and bracken ferns adopt a dusky golden shade. Along the river in the Kings Canyon, big leaf maple and cottonwoods shift from green to blonde.

In the foothills, leaf-color is not the most obvious hallmark of fall. It's the low-angle sunlight that inspires dry brown grasses to glow like gold. It's the pear-shaped nuts hanging on the buckeyes, those small, silver-barked trees that lost most of their leaves to summer's heat rather than waiting for autumn's cool. It's the migrating birds that enliven the shrubs with chirps before heading south to warmer climes. And it's the lovely cooler temperatures.

Let the longer nights of autumn motivate you to get the most out of the shortening days. Enjoy the gifts of fall!

Free Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led talks and walks may be offered on weekends at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, and the Foothills. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for details.

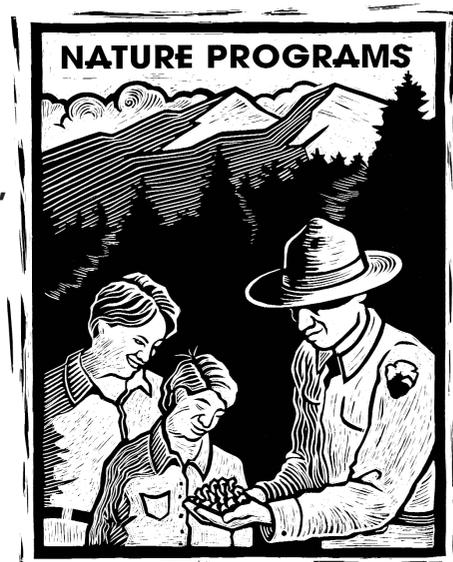
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE

People of all ages earn a badge while helping to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS:

BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th-grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date for your class, call 1-559-565-4303.

RANGER IN THE CLASSROOM Bring these world-famous parks to your elementary students! Call 1-559-565-3733 to learn about this exciting new program.



WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 to learn more). Use a map to know where you are! So, where can you:

- **WALK A PET?** *In the Parks:* Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.
- **GO CAMPING?** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

- **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.
- **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks.* Fire-arms must be unloaded, inoperable & stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license. Call 1-559-243-4005.
- **SNOWMOBILE?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, and Cherry Gap. For information: 1-559-338-2251.
- **CUT WOOD?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 1-559-338-2251.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.
- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Bears are active; never leave food unattended! *Fire Restrictions:* Check bulletin boards for details. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, & Crescent Meadow.
- **HAVE A FIRE?** Fire restrictions are in effect! Check for details. *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at park visitor centers in Grant Grove & Cedar Grove or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **GO FISHING?** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.
- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.
- **RIDE HORSEBACK** Call regarding hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips.
 - **Cedar Grove** closed mid-Oct. 1-559-565-3464 summer 1-559-337-2314 off season
 - **Grant Grove** closed for winter. 1-559-335-9292 summer 1-559-594-9307 off season
 - **Horse Corral** closed for winter. at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest 1-559-565-3404 summer 1-559-564-6429 off season 1-559-679-3573 cell